

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PACIFIC BASIN AREA
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

(Hectare, Acre)

CODE 655

DEFINITION

A route, travel-way or cleared area within a forest.

PURPOSE

- Provide access to forest stands for management;
- Provide access for removal and collection of forest products;
- Provide access to forested areas for recreation; and,
- Minimize onsite and off-site damage to resources during periods of access.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On forested areas.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to all Purposes

Trails and landings will be of a size, gradient, number and location to economically and efficiently accomplish the intended purpose and expected users and equipment. They shall be configured to minimize adverse onsite and off-site impacts such as accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, other water resource damage, aesthetics or unacceptable damage to advance regeneration, residual growing stock, wildlife habitat, fragmentation, or restrict wildlife movement.

Timing and use of equipment will be commensurate with site and soil conditions to maintain site productivity and minimize soil erosion, displacement and compaction.

Slash, debris and vegetative material left on the site after construction will not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard or interfere with the intended purpose.

Water bars, rolling dips, timber bridges, rock plunge pools, and other drainage measures for trails shall be of sufficient size, intervals and gradient for adequate drainage and erosion control.

Trails and landings where appropriate shall be sufficiently revegetated to control erosion.

Noxious plants will not be used for revegetation.

Comply with applicable federal and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assure safe ingress and egress to site.

Locate landings and trails to preserve aesthetic qualities.

Landings and trails may be closed for erosion control, safety and liability, and reduced maintenance costs.

Landings and trails may be used for wildlife food and cover plantings.

Landings and trails may be utilized as firebreaks.

Consider cultural resources and environmental concerns such as threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, natural areas and wetlands.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

Specifications for revegetation of landings and trails should include species, timing and method of application.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Periodic inspections of landings and trails will be conducted and where necessary repairs will be made.

Landings and trails utilized as firebreaks will be properly maintained to accomplish this purpose.

Landings and trails may be closed for erosion control, safety and liability, and reduced maintenance costs.

Landings and trails no longer needed can be “put to bed” by removing high maintenance structures, such as culverts and bridges, and can be restored to a vegetative cover by planting and seeding.